# Rothschild House and Old Fort Townsend CAMP Project Stage 3 – Preliminary Recommendations Public Workshop Comments

June 3, 2008

## **Rothschild House Centennial 2013 Vision Consistency**

- Scenery is excellent
- House separately listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Unique architecture (Greek Revival a rarity for this age 1868)
- Artifacts from family intact (rare)
- Capital investments since 2004
  - Extensive restoration of interior wall paper
  - Repair of entry and façade
- Part of Port Townsend National Historic Landmark
- Regional draw for annual Victorian festival and garden tours
- Part of Fort Worden's historic preservation field school

### **Old Fort Townsend Centennial 2013 Vision Consistency**

- Portfolio site Willamette Valley/Puget Trough/Georgia Basin Eco-regional Assessment (The Nature Conservancy)
- Largest tract of mature Douglas fir-western hemlock/Pacific rhododendron forest remaining in the Puget Trough (100 acres)
- Civil War Era re-enactments broader use
- Greater demand if beach access improved
- Front country solitude experience Provides rare car camping niche
- Unique tent camping experience
- Proximate educational opportunity
- Waterfront
- The "Barn" as public space
- Investment in residence
- Strategic connections conservation easement, 30-acre property, land trust property
- Significance as a fort
- Potential trail connections to land trust property
- Olympic Discovery Trail site
- Fort to Fort Ride
- Realistic revenue to expense ratio
- Archaeological field school Life-Long Learning Center component
- More comprehensive view of biological resources
- Many opportunities relative to size of park
- Management strategy to integrate park into Fort Worden (Historically one unit)
- Programming potential for Fort Worden partners
- Geological interpretation
- Wow factor once out the car

#### **Natural Resource Issues**

- Any shoreline property owned by the State of Washington Parks should remain a state park forever. Do not ever divest a park with shoreline – trump issue
- Maintain primitive tent camping area separate from RVs and no generators allowed

- Important and unique waterfront access: 1) for education (geology, beach, marine science) 2) for kayak, rowing access (water trail campsite) 3) for walking, bird watching, fishing
- Recent The friends put up educational info "flowers of the month". This is wonderful –
  makes people aware of flowers as they bloom and other plants that are seen as a person is
  looking more at the floor of the forest.
- I'm concerned about the suggestion that the habitat (especially shoreline/tideland) protections in PTPC's conservation easement can be relaxed if WSP were to acquire the PTPC property some day.
- The trails of Old Fort Townsend are extremely popular because of their very real and natural character. Also, 6 ½ miles of trail through 367 acres of mature forest terrain gives hikers many different views, both forest and waterfront, and very unique experiences
- There is potential connectivity between Fort Worden and Old Fort Townsend through classes and activities using the natural setting in addition to the barn and the amphitheater, waterfront, trails, and flora at Old Fort

#### **Cultural Resource Issues**

 Explore archaeological field site potential – public interest – educational use – tie in with Fort Worden

#### **Recreational Issues**

- The walk-in campsites could be an exceptional area. Currently it does not have privacy and the understory is virtually nil. State Parks needs to rehab this area and make it more hospitable to campers
- Improve and retain the tent campsites (walk-in). These are an important feature of Old Fort
- Any possibility of a "road" that would allow kayakers to off-load at the beach and then park upland in the parking area by the barn? Public use issue
- Put plan in place to put cabins for rent uphill from parade ground
- Concern re cabins for up[keep] and maintenance long-term/short-term. How about yurts instead – or just RVs and tenting?

#### **Other Issues**

- Land to north is not for sale
- Combine Old Fort and Fort Worden administratively
- Consider offering the barn for reservation for an event by a non-profit group at a reduced price. This will bring more people into the park and create good will.
- Waterfront in a growing state with so little left keep it all for public access and buy more